Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /062 W

-----151634Z 079293 /43

O R 151543Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 642

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS MADRID 4553

USEEC

ALSO FOR AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: ELECTION DAY

1. JUNE 15 BROUGHT SUNNY SKIES AS SPANISH VOTERS WENT TO THE POLLS IN MASSIVE NUMBERS, PERHAPS EVEN EXCEEDING THE EXPECTED 80 PER CENT TURNOUT. EMBOFFS VISITED POLLING PLACES IN WIDELY SCATTERED AREAS OF MADRID, AND OBSERVED VOTERS WAITING PATIENTLY IN LINE. SPANIARDS DRESS UP TO VOTE, AND MANY SEEM QUIETLY PROUD OF WHAT IS GOING ON. TURNOUT IN WORKING CLASS SECTIONS SEEMS PARTICULARLY HEAVY. WITHIN THE LAST UNCLASSIFIED

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HOUR, THE GOVT HAS ANNOUNCED THE EXTENSION OF MADRID VOTING HOURS BY 1-1/2 HOURS TO 9:30 PM (WHICH COULD ACCORDINGLY DELAY RESULTS), TO ALLOW TIME FOR CORRECTION OF A SHORTAGE OF BALLOTS AT SOME POLLING PLACES.

2. THE ATMOSPHERE IN MAJOR SPANISH CITIES IS PEACFUL AND FESTIVE. SHOPS AND RESTUARANTS ARE OPEN, ALTHOUGH MANY

ARE EXPECTED TO CLOSE THIS AFTERNOON TO ALLOW TIME FOR VOTING. BUSINESSES ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO GIVE ALL EMPLOYEES FOUR HOURS. AMCONSULATES IN BARCELONA, SEVILLA, AND BILBAO REPORT GENERAL CALM AND HEAVY TURNOUTS, THE BASQUE VOTE IS EXPECTED TO BE MUCH LARGER THAN FOR THE DECEMBER REFERENDUM, WHEN MANY CHOSE TO ABSTAIN.

3. AS WAS EXPECTED, THE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC FRINGES HAVE MADE AN EFFORT TO DISRUPT THE VOTING. ALTHOUGH AT LEAST SIX BOMBS EXPLODED IN VARIOUS CITIES THIS MORNING, INJURING FIVE PERSONS, THE EFFECT HAS BEEN NEGIGIBLE. POLICE AND MILITARY ARE ON STATION AT ALL KEY INSTALLATIONS, TO GUARD AGAINST JUST SUCH EFFORTS (REF MADRID 4418), AND FIRST VP FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS GEN. GUTIERREZ MELLADO ADDRESSED THE NATION BRIEFLY ON TELEVISION LAST NIGHT TO THE SAME END. WHILE COMPLIMENTING THE POPYLACE FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY BEHAVIORN HE WARNED THE VIOLENT FRINGE THAT THE GOVT WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY PERSONS OR GROUPS TO IMPOSE ON THE REST OF SOCIETY BY ILLEGAL MEANS.

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